



Monday, February, 08, 2021
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Kristine Kwong on Monday, February 08, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in a virtual setting, with all Commissioners and Council Liaison attending via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Kristine Kwong, Vice-Chair Victoria Rocha; Dollie Chapman, Commissioner; Victoria Rocha, Commissioner; Alberto Ocon, Commissioner; Karen Tamis, Commissioner.

Absent:

City Staff: Community Services Director Sheila Pautsch, Management Assistant Israel Suarez, and Community Services Coordinator Melissa Snyder.

Council Liaison: Jack Donovan, Council Member, and Diana Mahmud, Mayor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were three public comments that came via email,
The first public comment came from Meghan Kiser which reads,

“Dear Parks and Recreation Commission,

This is a general comment regarding face coverings. This is regarding the lack of communication as well as enforcement of the state mandate. I am writing this as we do not monitor nor enforce face coverings in the parks as we should. Face coverings are required when you leave your house and can possibly be in contact within 6 feet. San Marino, for example is doing a much better job of communicating and enforcing face coverings at Lacy Park. There are signs at every entrance as well as throughout the park with COVID restrictions and city council and rec staff monitoring the park. Please use their example and safe our parks safe too. I live across the street from Garfield Park and see how many are not following social distance, wearing masks and not socializing with more than 3 households. I can tell you the 18 middle schoolers I saw last week were from 16 households were not social distancing nor were half in face coverings. I have 3 children who are disappointed about the safety at Garfield Park right now. We would like to say we feel safe walking around the park but we do not. The group that meets with dogs, I counted 13 households the other night. I saw a full pick up soccer game, no masks in

the Arroyo last week. We need to have communication at every park entrance, tennis courts and enforce so it is safe for our community.

Regards,
Meghan Kiser”

The second public comment came from Michelle Hammond which reads,

“To: City Parks and Rec Committee

From: Michelle Hammond, South Pasadena resident, NREC commissioner, and former Co-Chair of South Pasadena Community Garden

Re: General Public Comment, to be read aloud at the meeting

I am writing to express my support for an additional Community Garden in South Pasadena.

I have seen firsthand many benefits to the community the garden has provided. Providing much needed space to many of our renters without a yard, a bonding and teaching space as plot neighbors help each other with their gardens, a learning center for our neighborhood schools who regularly visit on field trips, and volunteer opportunities for our youth boy and Girl Scouts. The garden has been such a success that it makes sense for more to benefit by expanding and opening a second for our growing demand.

A second location could also afford the possibility to be used differently by the community by looking into a way for us to have a local organic recycling spot, managed by the garden. As a NREC commissioner organic collection is a big issue facing our city this year, a compost site could benefit our community environmentally and be used as a education tool for others who are trying it out at home. As one of the founding committee members who helped to start the first garden, I would be happy to volunteer to help in efforts for another.

Thank you,

Michelle Hammond
NREC Commissioner”

The third and final public comment came from Margie Whalen which reads,

“I would like to express my support for a new community garden in South Pasadena.

This last year, we have had more inquiries than we have ever had in our five-year history, despite the reduced opportunities for outreach or publicity. We have encouraged all those who have inquired to apply, although our waitlist was already the longest it had ever been. Many of them did apply, but others, we suspect, were daunted by the wait. We are in the process of our May turn-over plans and anticipate welcoming 13 new households in after having brought in 3 new households, very cautiously, during the pandemic. We have been able to do this only by having a

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number of gardeners share beds, and we still had to cycle several current gardeners back to the waitlist, which has already begun to grow again.

This seems to us to be an ideal time to move forward on another public gardening space in town. It has certainly been a boon to the many families we have served during our time here. As a neighbor of the garden, I can confirm that it and the pocket park in front have been a most welcome and well-used addition to the neighborhood. We'd be happy to share our experience with the folks who take up the mantle on the next garden in the city."

COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Mahmud thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for their service and dedication to the South Pasadena community. Mayor Mahmud welcomed new Council Liaison Jack Donovan to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mayor Mahmud mentioned that she is looking forward to the creation of the two pocket parks and to consider adding a community garden to one of them. Mayor Mahmud informed commissioners to contact their council liaison or herself when there is an issue with trash pickup at any of the parks.

Council Member Donovan announced that he is looking forward to working with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Chapman expressed concerned that at the South Pasadena Skatepark and Dog Park there have been many people not wearing proper personal protective equipment.

Commissioner Tamis provided an update on her parks. She asked about the use of all electric lawn equipment on parks is still being used. Lastly, there was a lot of trash on Garfield Park this past weekend that needed to be picked up.

Commissioner Rocha noted Garfield Park has a lot of trash. She asked if we would be able to send notifications on the City Hall Scoop with updates to residents about trash pickup.

Chair Kwong commented on the difficulties of signage at parks and, included the thought of adding more trash receptacles to Garfield Park.

Commissioner Ocon updated the Commission on repairs that South Pasadena Little League made at Clarich Field.

Staff Liaison Communications

Community Services Director Pautsch informed the Commission that the department will continue to replace signage but, it might keep getting taken down by park visitors. Director

Pautsch Informed the Commission of the Departments limited staffing. Director Pautsch advised the Commission to inform her if they see a vendor not using proper equipment.

ACTION / DISCUSSION**Approval of the January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Chair Kwong, seconded by Commissioner Chapman, carries 5-0 to approve the January 11, 2021 meeting minutes.

Approval of Girl Scout Troop #7211 Donation of Book Box at Eddie Park

Community Services Director Pautsch presented the item and asked the commission for any additions, comments, last review and approval.

Motion by Chair Kwong, seconded by Commissioner Ocon, carries 5-0 to approve the donation to approve Girl Scout Troop #7211 donation of book box at Eddie Park.

Approval the addition of James Francis Weinbrech to the South Pasadena Children's Memorial and Healing Garden

Motion by Chair Kwong, seconded by Commissioner Tamis, carries 5-0 to approve the addition of James Francis Weinbrech to the South Pasadena Children's Memorial and Healing Garden.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Next meeting March 8, 2021 6:30 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission of South Pasadena at a meeting held on March 8, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

Israel Suarez

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Israel Suarez

Management Assistant

DocuSigned by:

Kristine Kwong

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Kristine Kwong

Chair of Parks and Recreation Commissions